

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

In re:)
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s)
Entry Into Long Distance (InterLATA))Service)
in Tennessee Pursuant to Section 271 of the)
Telecommunications Act of 1996)

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Docket No. 97-00309
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

PETITION TO INTERVENE

Ernest Communications, Inc. ("Ernest") petitions the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") to intervene as a matter of right in the above-captioned proceeding pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-310(b).

The above-captioned docket concerns the Authority's approval of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") entry into the long distance business in Tennessee. In order to receive this approval, BellSouth must demonstrate to the Authority compliance with Section 271(c)(1)(A) and 271(c)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Ernest is certified by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") to offer intrastate telecommunications services in Tennessee. Ernest therefore, has an interest in BellSouth's compliance with the provisions of Section 271 of the Act. The legal rights, duties, privileges, immunities, or other legal interests of Birch may be affected or determined by the outcome of this proceeding.

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Furthermore, granting this petition will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of this proceeding, and Ernest does not request any changes in the procedural schedule already established in this case. Ernest therefore requests that this Petition to Intervene be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via hand-delivery, overnight delivery or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows on this 12th day of July, 2002:

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